

ABSTRACT

A convertible multi-lumen catheter that may be used for hemodialysis or other indications involving infusion and/or withdrawal of fluids from the body. Unlike existing catheters having a set number of lumens which may limit their utility as both short and long-term venous vascular devices, the catheter of the invention allows one or more additional lumens during the acute phase of catheter use with removal of these lumens (i.e. conversion) for more permanent use. A typical example of this would be a triple lumen device for hemodialysis and antibiotic therapy during an acute infection with conversion to a chronic dual lumen hemodialysis catheter after successful treatment of the infection. The lumen is permanently or semi-permanently blocked using a biocompatible plastic obturator that is inserted into the unused lumen and locked and/or glued into place.